

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 00983 111556Z
ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 A-01 OC-06
CPR-01 SY-05 NSC-05 PRS-01 /045 W
-----111818Z 009511 /47
P 111451Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1736
INFO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS B.)
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT TO DAMASCUS; PRESS ARRANGMENTS

REF: DAMASCUS 931

1. PRESS CORPS ACCOMPANYING SECRETARY WILL BE HOUSED IN MERIDIEN HOTEL. ROOM ASSIGNMENTS FOLLOW SEPTTEL.
2. PRESS CENTER WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN BUSINESS INFORMATION CENTER, GROUND FLOOR OF HOTEL. MININFO WILL SET UP TWO TELEX LINES IN PRESS CENTER, AS WELL AS THREE SEPARATE PHONE LINES. QUESTION OF CREDIT CARD USAGE NOT FULLY RESOLVED. AS IN PAST, CREDIT CARDS WILL BE ACCEPTED BY PTT FOR TELEPHONE USE, BUT MININFO REPORTS THAT PTT STILL BALKING AT CREDIT CARDS FOR TELEX. WILL FORWARD FINAL DECISION WITHIN COMING WEEK.
3. HOTEL RESERVING SEPARATE ROOM ON UPPER FLOOR FOR PRESS CONFERENCE OR GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS TO PRESS SHOULD EITHER BE SCHEDULED. PA SYSTEM WILL BE INSTALLED AND READY DURING ENTIRE VISIT.
4. PRESS OPPORTUNITIES:

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A. SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20. ARRIVAL STATEMENT AT AIRPORT. APPROXIMATELY 50 JOURNALISTS, INCLUDING U.S. MEDIA REPS FROM REGIONAL BUREAUS, ARE EXPECTED TO BE AT AIRPORT. (EMBASSY WILL RECORD AND CABLE FULL TEXT TO DEPARTMENT AND ITINERARY POSTS.)

B. SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20. EMBASSY HAS REQUESTED AUTHORIZATION FOR POOL CAMERA TO COVER HANDSHAKE AND BEGINNING OF SECRETARY'S INITIAL MEETINGS WITH FONMIN KHADDAM AND PRESIDENT ASAD AT FOREIGN MINISTRY AND PRESIDENTIAL PLACE RESPECTIVELY. EXPECT DECISION BY MIDDLE NEXT WEEK.

C. SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20. OFFICIAL DINNER FOR SECRETARY AT MERIDIEN HOSTED BY FONMIN KHADDAM. SUGGEST WE PROPOSE THAT TWO MEDIA REPS FROM ACCOMPANYING PARTY BE INVITED. PLEASE ADVISE. MAY RECORD EXCHANGE OF TOASTS IN EVENT THIS TAKES PLACE. (EMBASSY WILL ALSO RECORD AND TRANSMIT ANY STATEMENTS MADE.) FINAL DECISION ON INVITATION TO PRESS WHEN RECEIVED FROM FONMIN.

D. MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21. DEPARTURE STATEMENT AT AIRPORT FOLLOWED BY BRIEF Q AND A.

5. ON PREVIOUS SECRETARIAL VISITS, SYRIANS HAVE ESTABLISHED PRECEDENT OF CLEARING COPY TO BE FILED BY TELEPHONE AND TELEX. IN PRACTICE, HOWEVER, THIS REQUIREMENT HAS BEEN VERY RELAXED. WE WILL NOT KNOW UNTIL PARTY ARRIVES HOW SYRIANS WILL OPERATE, BUT PRESS SHOULD BE AWARE THEIR COPY MIGHT BE REVIEWED BY MININFO CENSOR.

6. FOR OFFICIAL PARTY AND ACOMPANYING PRESS COPIES OF WF WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE. SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY ALSO PROMISES TO PROVIDE FEBRUARY 19-21 TAKE OF AP, UPI, REUTERS AND AFP TICKERS.

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7. PRESS KITS WILL INCLUDE MEMORANDUM ON FILING PROCEDURES, IMPORANT PHONE NUMBERS, SHOPPING GUIDE, TOURISTS GUIDE OF DAMASCUS. ADVISE IF MORE MATERIAL REQUIRED.
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 11-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Remarks:
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